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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2010-73

Dicamba

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is proposing to establish a maximum residue limit (MRL) for dicamba on soybeans to permit the import and sale of foods containing such residues.

Dicamba is an herbicide currently registered for food use in Canada on barley, corn, lowbush blueberries, oats, rye and wheat.

The PMRA has determined the quantity of residues likely to remain in or on the imported food commodity when dicamba is used according to label directions in the exporting country. The Agency has also determined that such residues will not be a concern to human health and is proposing to legally establish a corresponding import MRL. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Details regarding the import MRL can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Consultation on the proposed MRL for dicamba is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRL is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRL for dicamba in Canada in or on food is as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Dicamba

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Dicamba	benzoic acid, 3,6-dichloro-2-methoxy-, including the metabolites benzoic acid, 3,6-dichloro-2-hydroxy- and benzoic acid, 2,5-dichloro-3-hydroxy-6-methoxy-	10	Dry soybeans

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2008-3620.

International Situation and Trade Implications

The proposed Canadian MRL for dicamba in Canada is the same as the corresponding tolerance established in the United States for soybean seed (tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide). Currently, Codex Alimentarius MRLs[2] have not been established for dicamba on any commodity. A listing of all established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRL for dicamba up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRL for dicamba and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[2] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.